

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the above amendments and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 4, 6-18, 33-50, 54, and 55 are pending. Claims 54 and 55 are amended, and Claims 51-53 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 51-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Suzuki (U.S. Patent No. 6,047,435) in view of Brown (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0000017).

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-18, and 33-50 were allowed. In addition, Claims 54 and 55 were objected to, but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. The indication of allowed and allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged. In response to the indication of allowable subject matter, Claims 54 and 55 are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base Claim 53. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claims 54 and 55 are allowable as acknowledged in the Office Action.

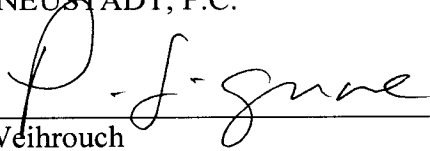
Claims 51-53 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection of Claims 51-53 is rendered moot, and it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

For the reasons discussed above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-2, 4, 6-18, 33-50, 54, and 55 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. P. Weihrouch", written over a horizontal line.

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